



Michigan State University - Extension

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Kathe Hale, Extension Educator – 586-469-6088 Date: July 14, 2011

Local Community and Youth Gardens Receive Mini-Grants

With a local grant from United Way for Southeastern Michigan – Michigan State University Extension provided funding for 15 Community and Youth Garden Programs. Each garden program is receiving a \$500 mini-grant. Katherine Hale, Extension Educator with Macomb County MSU Extension was awarded funding from the Local Community Committee of United Way in Macomb County, which is an annual grant opportunity to provide one-time funding for a short-term project. Many community groups were interested in community gardening programs but didn't have the available funds to purchase hand tools, watering supplies and sometimes plants and seeds. Hale used a small committee to develop a proposal process and put out the Request for Proposals to local groups and schools wanting to develop or continue garden programs.

The majority of the gardens are growing produce to donate to soup kitchens and/or food pantries. Garden Grant recipients were also provided a scale, which will enable the gardeners to weigh the produce as it leaves the garden to determine how much food has been grown this summer.

Grant recipients include garden programs that work with developmentally disabled populations teaching them new skills, and school programs teaching plant science, nutrition and health education to children

Gardening Programs offer the community and youth so many wonderful educational benefits - the opportunity to help feed people, help teach kids about new foods they may not have tried before and encourage community health and wellness.

Recipients of the Garden Resource Program Mini-Grants include:

Junior Master Gardeners at Higgins Elementary, Chesterfield – Katie Nebel
Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center, Mt. Clemens – Mark Emerick
My Sister's Garden, New Baltimore – Mickie Mellon
Atwood Elementary Gator Gardeners, Macomb – Sandy Paratore
Angel Gardeners 4-H Club, Mt. Clemens 1 – Emily Diaz-Torres
Metropolitan Church of the Nazarene, Centerline – Rev. Robert Moulding
City of Mt. Clemens Community Garden, Mt. Clemens – Ryan Rowinski
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb – Jennifer Moore
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Biology Summer Program, Clinton Twp – Shirley Tautolo
Detroit Arsenal 4-H Club, Warren – Teresa Brodsky
HH Wiley Elementary School, Utica – Stephen Hulbert
Lakeshore Family YMCA, St. Clair Shores – Carol Burton
Armada Schools - Armada-Cynthia Mizuki
Macomb Intermediate School District; Neil Reid High School, Clinton Twp – James Young
Special Dreams Farm, Cheryl Beauchamp

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